

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AS, PDIP

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON AUSTRALIA'S NEW AMBASSADOR
TO THE PRC: C. G. WOODARD

REF: CANBERRA A-93, APRIL 12, 1973

1. ON OCT 22 FOREIGN MINISTER PEACOCK ANNOUNCED THAT DFA'S
FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NORTH AND SOUTH ASIAN DIVISION
CHARLES GARRARD WOODARD HAD BEEN APPOINTED AUSTRALIAN
AMBASSADOR TO THE PRC.

2. PRIOR TO HIS ASSIGNMENT AS FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
THE NORTH AND SOUTH ASIA DIVISION, WOODARD SERVED AS AMBASSADOR
TO BURMA, (1973-1975), ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL
ASSESSMENT STAFF IN THE JOINT INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (1970-73), COUNSELLOR IN WASHINGTON
(1967-70), SECTION HEAD OF DFA'S AMERICAS AND SOUTH
PACIFIC BRANCH (1965-67); HEAD OF DFA'S POLICY PLANNING DIVISION
(1963-65); FIRST AND SECOND SECRETARY LONDON (1960-63; DEFENSE
LIAISON OFFICER (1957-60); THIRD SECRETARY SINGAPORE (1955-57);
ALTERNATE DELEGATE UNCURK PUSAN AND SEOUL (1953-55); FOREIGN
AFFAIRS CADET (1952-53).

3. WOODARD WAS BOEN IN ADELAIDE ON JULY 3, 1929 AND RECEIVED
AN LLB DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE. HE
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MARRIED HELEN CAMERON IN 1955 AND HAS TWO SONS, ANDREW,

AGED 18, AND ALASTAIR, AGED 16.

4. WOODARD IS AN INTELLIGENT, AGGRESSIVE, AND GREGARIOUS PERSONALITY. HE AND HIS WIFE ARE KNOWN IN CANBERRA FOR THEIR LIVELY PARTIES WHICH OFTEN LAST UNTIL DAWN. HE HAS A KEEN AND INQUIRING MIND AND IS ABLE TO VIEW WORLD DEVELOPMENTS WITH A DEPTH AND PERSPECTIVE WHICH IS UNUSUAL FOR AN AUSTRALIAN DIPLOMAT. HE HAS A PUCKISH SENSE OF HUMOR, BUT CAN BE BLUNT AND UNCOMPROMISING ON OCCASION. HE STANDS OUT IN A DIPLOMATIC SERVICE IN WHICH MOST SENIOR PERSONNEL TEND TO BE CONSERVATIVE AND UNIMAGINATIVE PERSONALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY.

5. WOODARD IS CLEARLY WELL CONNECTED IN THE BUREAUCRACY, AND HIGHLY REGARDED PROFESSIONALLY BY POLITICIANS WITH CONSIDERABLE CLOUT. INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH HIS WIFE HAS BEEN OUTSPOKEN IN HER CONDEMNATION OF THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SACKING OF THE WHITLAM GOVERNMENT, BUT THIS APPEARS TO HAVE HAD NO ADVERSE AFFECT UPON HIS CAREER PROSPECTS WITH THE LABOR-COUNTRY PARTY GOVERNMENT IN POWER.

6. DURING HIS WASHINGTON ASSIGNMENT, 1967 TO 1970, HIS PRIMARY INTEREST WAS IN POLITICAL/MILITARY MATTERS RELATED PRIMARILY TO SOUTHEAST ASIA AND HE HAS CLOSE TIES WITH MANY AMERICANS, OFFICIAL AND ACADEMIC, WHO ARE INVOLVED IN GLOBAL STRATEGY AND NATIONAL SECURITY MATTERS.

7. HIS ASSIGNMENT AS AMBASSADOR TO CHINA IS A REAL FEATHER IN HIS CAP FOR AT HIS AGE HE MIGHT HAVE HAD TO WAIT SEVERAL MORE YEARS FOR SUCH A KEY POST. IT IS CONSIDERED HERE TO BE WELL DESERVED RECOGNITION OF HIS OUTSTANDING ABILITY, BUT THERE ARE INEVITABLY A FEW NOSES OUT OF JOINT AMONG SENIOR OFFICERS IN THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT. HB SD (#) HARGROVE

NOTE BY OC/T: (#) AS RECEIVED.

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